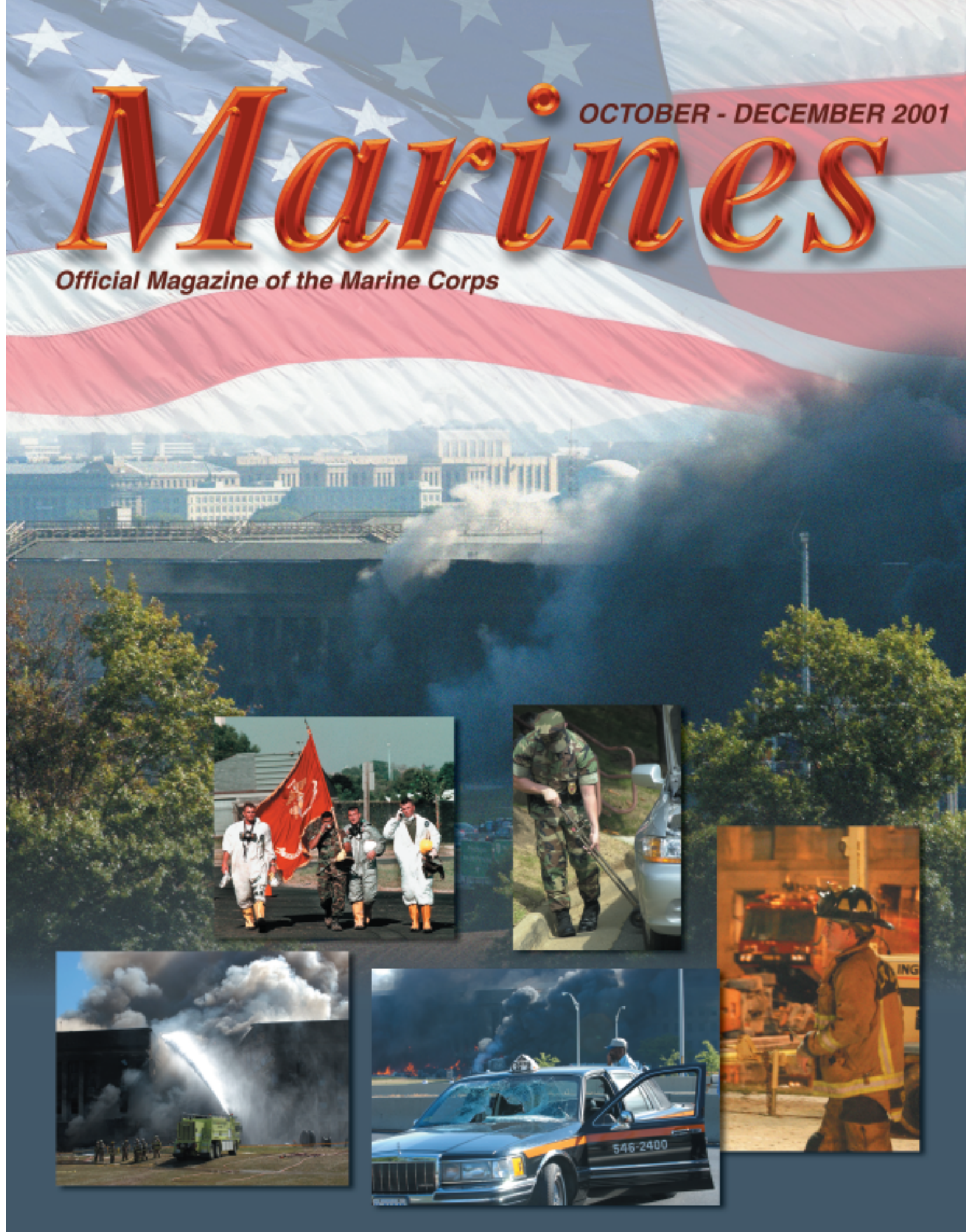


Marines

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2001

Official Magazine of the Marine Corps





Lance Cpl. John Hoellwarth

Marines

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Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps
Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael

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Front Cover Collage: (clockwise, from top left) – Maj. Dan Pantaleo, carries the Marine Corps colors recovered from the Pentagon. (Photo by Michael Lutzky, Courtesy of the Washington Post) (top right) – Lance Cpl. Keith Egan, military policeman, searches under a car after military bases were placed on high alert. (Photo by Sgt. M. V. Trindade) (far right) – An exhausted firefighter takes a break from rescue efforts. (Photo by Cpl. Jason Ingersoll) (bottom) – a cab driver stops on Interstate 395 after debris crushes his windshield. (Photo by Cpl. Jason Ingersoll) (far left) – Firefighters extinguish the massive fire at the Pentagon that created smoke to be seen for miles away. (Photo by Cpl. Jason Ingersoll) (Background) –The Pentagon after the crash of the commercial airliner. (Photo by Cpl. Jason Ingersoll)

Departments

Corps Shots	29
Marine Mail	30

Features

Safety Isn't Dead	2
CMC's Message	3
Silent Killer: Suicide	4
OshKosh Unveils New 7-Ton Truck	5
Marine Corps Martial Arts	6
New MOS Open to Marines	8
VMA-311 Squadron of the Year	9
Recognizing Enemy Armour	10
Fire in the Hole!	11
Iwo Jima, Fact or Fiction?	12
Toys for Tots Campaign	14
Sir, are Liberty Bounds Really Necessary?	15
MCI Gets Education to Marines	16
Marines Get Hands Dirty Building Homes	18
Are You Ready to Go?	20
Marines Raise Flag on Iwo Jima	21
All Marine Wrestler Lives Out Dream	22
DoD Targets Ecstasy	23
Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame	24
Marines Tear into X Games	26
Cease Fire! Cease Fire!	28

Safety Isn't Dead...

Even Though a Lot of Marines Are

Sgt. Katesha Niman
Headquarters Marine Corps
Washington, D. C.

Sergeant Major Alford McMichael is glad to answer more than a hundred phone calls a day from people wanting to talk about the Marine Corps' budget, future, and quality of life issues. Talking about important issues is what he gets paid to do. But it's that one phone call he gets from the Headquarters, Marine Corps Command Center that makes him cringe, and breaks his normally strong heart.

"It's a sad day when I get a call about a Marine that was injured or has lost his life due to the lack of safety," the Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps said, "It's hard to function properly."

Since becoming the 14th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps in 1999, Sgt. Maj. McMichael has been receiving those unfortunate phone calls just about every day.

her back because we didn't take care of them like we promised," McMichael said with concern in his voice.

Noncommissioned officers and the Corps' growing Single Marine Program are trying to uphold that promise by taking better care of junior Marines – the largest group of Marines that are killed.

McMichael explained that it is good that senior staff NCOs regularly give safety briefs to their Marines, but the 18 or 19 year-old Marine looks at his senior staff NCO as he would his parent, merely as an authoritative figure and therefore doesn't relate to him or her. The sergeant and corporal, McMichael said, are more on the private and PFC's level and can educate them on



14th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps,
Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael

"If you don't make safety a priority when training, that might be your last training day."

Personnel Casualty Reports(PCR) and Serious Incidents Reports(SIR) about Marines falling asleep at the wheel, driving drunk, getting crushed or injured while on-duty and Marines accidentally shooting themselves, have plagued the Marine Corps with losses that could have been prevented through Operational Risk Management(ORM).

According to reports from the HQMC Safety Division, since the beginning of fiscal year 2001, 49 Marines have been carelessly killed due to on duty and off duty mishaps.

The sergeant major is extremely disturbed.

"Someone has given us his son or daughter and now we can't give him or

safety, without being too overbearing.

In contrast, the sergeant major is aware of opposing opinions there may be about having too much safety that it affects training, but it's the lack of safety that concerns McMichael the most.

"If you don't make safety a priority when training, that might be your last training day," he expressed.

McMichael agrees wholeheartedly with 'training how you are going to fight,' but said that if Marines don't put safety first, they won't have a chance to fight how they were trained. He also thinks it's the lack of safety that hampers realistic training, not the other way around.

"When a Marine gets seriously injured or even killed during a training exercise because the right safety precautions weren't taken, training stops to take care of that Marine," he said.

By providing the opportunity to not have a mishap, training won't have to come to a halt.

"We as leaders need to continue to educate our Marines on how to stay focused on safety by holding them accountable for their careless actions and reward those who continue to put safety as their number one priority."

McMichael explained, "we are doing better than past years, but we can still do better."

"This is a tough business (taking care of Marines)," McMichael said as he compared the Corps with the civilian business world, "but we are fighting a battle I know we can win."

Gen. Jones: Marines Always Ready and Faithful

ALMAR 041/01

09/12/2001

1. The recent terrorist attacks on our nation highlight the new reality of warfare. The very visible attacks against icons of our democratic nation and our citizens no longer represent a simple violation of international law. As was evidenced so graphically both in New York City and Washington, a new form of open warfare was declared against America, directly targeting civilian and military personnel and our institutions alike. Our Commander in Chief has stated we will respond to this act of war, and we will prevail. As we respond to this tragedy, our focus, as always, is to mission first and people always. In line with this commitment, I would like to offer my condolences to those who have suffered the loss of loved ones. I would like to voice special thoughts and prayers for our comrades-in-arms in the Army and Navy who appear to have borne the brunt of the attack at the Pentagon. While the process of accounting for all personnel, active duty, reserve, veteran, and civilian is not yet complete, our Corps appears, thus far, to have been spared any loss of life in Washington. I am not as optimistic with respect to the attack in New York City. Scores of emergency response personnel and the general public are bound to be members of the "Marine Family."

2. The very public display of this new form of warfare comes as no surprise to Marines. Our focus on developing anti-terrorism and force protection (AT/FP) capabilities across our force continues our tradition of innovation and transformation. The threats we so visibly faced have fully validated the reorganizations we have undergone in the past few years, especially in the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion and our Fleet Anti-Terrorist Security Team capabilities. Our more recent efforts to incorporate AT/FP skill sets in all deploying Marine Corps units has proven prescient in addressing the latest threat to our national security. While our expeditionary culture remains the centerpiece of our warfighting capability, the added ability to effectively deal with terrorism is critical today and will remain one of our core capabilities for the foreseeable future.

3. Our expeditionary culture has once again proven valuable to our nation and we are poised to respond to the ongoing disaster relief operations in New York City. In conjunction with the Navy, we have once again demonstrated the value of the Navy-Marine Corps team in responding across the full spectrum of capabilities that our nation demands. In line with the special bond between Sailors and Marines, I have offered the full commitment of Marine Corps capabilities in support of any Naval mission, ashore or afloat. Commanders are directed to reinforce this commitment by seeking out their Navy counterparts and reinforcing this offer of assistance wherever it may be needed. While this support includes the full range of our capabilities, your focus should remain on our ability to support the AT/FP capabilities we can provide.

4. While we have previously discussed in depth the potential for asymmetric attack, we have, through the myriad actions and reactions that transpired on 11 Sep 01, experienced this paradigm shift in a most personal fashion. In order to continue our tradition of innovation we must capture the lessons we have learned regarding this emergent form of warfare. Commanders are directed to compile appropriate issues and their potential impact for the future, and submit them through their advocates for incorporation into the Marine Corps Expeditionary Force Development System. Reality is that what we have faced in the past 24 hours is not a single, isolated event. Yesterday's attack is the most visible manifestation of a war for which we have prepared through organizational change, and for which our expeditionary capabilities will be highlighted and in great demand.

5. The manner in which we react over the days and months ahead will once again highlight our readiness and adaptability to meet the nation's needs across the spectrum of operations. It will also visibly reinforce that we are always ready and always faithful.

Semper Fidelis,

General James L. Jones
32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps



Gen. James L. Jones
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Suicide on the Rise

Sgt. M. V. Trindade
Headquarters Marine Corps
Washington, D.C.

Many times a year, a Marine puts a gun to his head, pulls the trigger, and takes a life that was considered to be like precious metal to his family and friends.

Unfortunately as of August, there have been 17 suicides this calendar year.

Although the U. S. Armed Forces has proportionally fewer suicides each year than the civilian populace, “suicides are the second leading cause of death in the Marines,” said Navy Lt. Nisha Robbins, Headquarters Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Manager.

“When we match the Marines up demographically to civilians we see that the Marines are at a lower risk to commit suicide, however, the Marines still have the highest suicide rate of the Armed Forces.”

It is for this reason that the Department of the Navy has launched an effort to address and educate Marines and Sailors on preventive techniques to help curb suicide in the Naval Sea Services.

“Early prevention helps; it doesn’t hurt,” reads a section of the Department of the Navy All-hands Training Facilitator Kit, one of the initiatives the Department of the Navy has taken to try to curb this killer. Problems left unattended can spiral out of control and may result in tragedy.

The training kit, “Suicide Prevention: Taking Action, Saving Lives,” was developed in part to get everyone in the Navy and Marine Corps to have a standardized training program, Robbins explained.

The training package was developed with real life scenarios in mind and includes a video with issues ranging from a Marine being passed over for promotion to someone whose personal relationship fell apart.

Marines and Sailors must become aware of warning signs that may signal a potentially hazardous situation.

Some Marines view suicidal tendencies as someone trying to malingering or get out of doing something, explained Robbins.

“Sometimes sending a Marine to see a chaplain isn’t enough,” Robbins explained. “If they are suicidal or homicidal, it may be better that they be sent to the Emergency Room or the Mental Health duty doctor be called as hospitalization may be required.”

In order to improve prevention efforts, the DoN began tracking all suicides using the Department of the Navy Suicide Incident Report (DONSIR).

The DONSIR is a new tool in that it’s only been around for two years, but in those two years enough information has been gathered to begin seeing trends.

“We see for example, that one of the biggest risk factors for those that have ended their life was a relationship problem. Other significant risk factors are legal problems, and financial problems,” said Robbins.



Sgt. M. V. Trindade

More than 50 Marines have committed suicide in the past four years – that’s almost the size of a whole platoon.

Most suicides occur among junior enlisted, Caucasian males. However, Robbins also said there has been a slight increase in suicides among females as well as African American males.

According to Marine Administrative message 239/01, during the year 2000, there was a 33 percent increase in suicides in the E-6 and above ranks with four occurring in the officer ranks.

Ultimately, there isn’t one military occupational specialty, racial group, or age group that is less at risk than another.

“Suicide is something that can happen to anybody,” said Robbins. “Probably the biggest issue we try to stress to commands is to create a climate where troops feel that it is OK to get help for their problems.”

Several resources are available to Marines including the Mental Health Department of Naval hospitals and clinics, the counselors at the Community Services Center/Family Services Center, and chaplains.

Oshkosh Presents

New 7-ton Truck

Staff Sgt. Timothy Hodge
Blount Island Command
Jacksonville, Fla.

Oshkosh Truck Corporation officially presented the new 7-Ton Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement to the Marine Corps Maritime Prepositioning Force. In a ceremony held at the Marine Corps facility aboard Blount Island in Jacksonville, FL., the new MTVR became part of the Marine Corps’ war fighting capability.

The ceremony included a briefing on the new MTVR and a ribbon cutting ceremony that was immediately followed by the loading of the new vehicles onto the Marine Corps Maritime Prepositioning Ship M.V. 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo.

“We are proud to be able to provide the Marines with a state-of-the-art medium truck that they can take into combat with confidence. The MTVR is the benchmark for modern tactical truck performance. It’s extreme mobility, rugged design, and off-road capability make it the perfect choice for the Marine Corps,” said Steve Zink, MTVR project manager for the Oshkosh Truck Corporation.

Blount Island Command, home to the Marine Corps Maritime Prepositioning Force, is the first Marine installation to receive the new MTVR. This makes the vehicles available for immediate use during exercises and contingency operations conducted by the forward deployed Marine Expeditionary Forces. The delivery of the new 7-Ton MTVRs to Blount Island for deployment aboard the MPF ships will continue until all 14 ships in the MPF fleet have completed a maintenance cycle through the Blount Island facility. Over 1,100 MTVRs will be deployed aboard MPF ships when the cycle is completed.

The Marine Corps Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, is replacing the M939/M809 series trucks.



Official Marine Corps Photo

Corps' Martial Arts Program Succeeding

Lance Cpl. John R. Lawson
Headquarters Marine Corps
Washington, D.C.

With a year under its belt, -be it tan, green or black-the Marine Corps' new martial arts program (MCMAP), is making progress and motivating warriors.

Since its start in the fall of 2000, approximately 51,000 Marines have earned a tan belt, the first level in the program. Many have gone on to earn advanced belts.

MCMAPS's implementation strategy targets infantry units and entry-level training for fiscal year 2001. The remaining operating forces, to include the Reserves, will be implemented during fiscal year 2002. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones, wants every Marine to qualify as a tan belt or higher.

“...the new martial arts program lets Marines take the initiative and improvise during chaotic struggles.”

The Corps' martial arts program recognizes five basic levels of training with different belts: tan, gray, green, brown, and black. The black belts, at the top end of the spectrum, are subdivided into six degrees. For each degree, a Marine earns a red stripe.

A critical piece to implementing and sustaining MCMAP is creating a Martial Arts Instructor (MAI) and Instructor Trainer (MAIT) base. Currently, Corps-wide there are approximately 700 certified instructors and 150 certified instructor trainers.

When Gen. Jones introduced the martial arts program, he sought to improve Marines as fighters while cultivating mental discipline.

The program is generating a great deal of enthusiasm. One reason for the enthusiasm is the belt system, said Sgt. Jason Ramseyer, an Instructor Trainer with the Combat Instructor Company in Quantico, Va. “It gives Marines something to work for.”

In August, Ramseyer and several of his fellow instructors conducted a three-week course for 18 Marines. The Marines came in with no martial arts training and left with green belts.

One of the students, Sgt. Robert Jones, said the hierarchy of the belt system provides targets to shoot for.

Sgt. Jones, who serves in a tracked vehicle platoon at The Basic School in Quantico, pointed at an instructor and said, “Everybody wants what they’ve got. Everybody wants the black belt.”

While the old LINE training tended to be defensive and required close adherence to sequenced techniques, the new martial arts program lets Marines take the initiative and improvise during struggles.

“It’s more efficient and practical,” said Sgt. Ryan Green, another of Ramseyer’s students.

“It’s more to the point,” continued Green, who serves in an engineer platoon at TBS.

Jones said the martial arts training is more realistic than LINE training, which could seem to be tailored to scripted scenarios.

“We don’t know what the other person is going to do,” Jones said.

Another one of Ramseyer’s students, Capt. Adrienne Fosegan, said everything about the martial arts program puts it on a higher level than LINE training.

For openers, the martial arts classes incorporate exercise and physical exertion so that students learn to fight when they’re tired – which undoubtedly would be the situation in real combat.

“I think the hardest part for all of us was the physical training that accompanied the program,” said Fosegan, who serves as a TBS instructor.

“Word definitely needs to get out that they’re doing something here that the whole Marine Corps needs to get on board with,” Fosegan added.

One of Ramseyer’s fellow instructors, Sgt. Michael Moreman, said every time a new course is scheduled, enthusiasm for the program is apparent. “We always have people that we have to turn away until the next course date.”

The chief instructor for the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, Gunnery Sgt. James Coleman, said the program is a big hit with young Marines.

“It’s taking off,” he said.

“You walk on base and now you see people all over the place practicing on their own,” Coleman said. “You didn’t see that with LINE.”

Eventually the martial arts training may help determine advancement in rank, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Cardo Urso, chief trainer of the instructor trainer Marine Corps martial arts program. “We are exploring the possibility of incorporating the program into the promotion system.”



LEFT: Sergeant Larry Owens (background) and Cpl. Robert Rivera demonstrate intensity as they learn Defensive Ground fighting techniques during martial arts training.



ABOVE AND LEFT: Corporals Michael Stapleton (left) and Robert Rivera practice a "counter to round house kick."



RIGHT: Capt. James Parker (left) and Sgt. Jayson Franco (right) run through the techniques of an "arm bar from the guard."



Sergeants See Change in “Up or Out” Policy

Cpl. Kimberly Leone
Marine Corps Recruit Depot
San Diego, Calif.

Starting Oct. 1, 2001, Marine sergeants may re-enlist up to their service limit of 13 years if they have a recommendation for re-enlistment from their commanding officer and meet all re-enlistment standards, according to Marine Administrative Message 313/01.

Under current policy, sergeants in some primary military occupational specialties are considered for staff sergeant during their first enlistment. Those sergeants not selected for staff sergeant may be denied re-enlistment and are subsequently involuntarily separated. This occurs most frequently in MOSs that promote ahead of promotion goals

“In some MOSs, young sergeants with flawless careers are passed over for staff sergeant just because they are junior to their competition,” said Gunnery Sgt. David L. Sanchez, depot career planner, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif. “Getting passed for promotion flags that Marine and now you have a good Marine being looked at in a negative light.”



By keeping more intermediate career sergeants in the Marine Corps, the Corps evens the promotion tempo, allowing junior sergeants to accumulate time in grade and leadership experience while senior sergeants have time to achieve staff sergeant without the threat of involuntary separation.

The new policy helps the Marine Corps standardizing promotion tempo for sergeants throughout the Corps. It also gives commands a better way to keep quality Marines who may have otherwise been lost to the numbers game.

“The main emphasis is to reduce the attrition rate of intermediate career Marines,” Sanchez said. “We lose a lot of Marines each year who have 6 to 10 years in the Corps. This leaves a hole in the middle that has to be filled by first-term Marines. The more first-term Marines we have to move up, the more open spaces we have in the corporal and below ranks, meaning we have to recruit even more Marines each year.”

Sergeants with less than perfect careers are now also provided the opportunity to stay in the Marine Corps and improve the overall standing of their career, thus improving their chances for reaching staff sergeant.

For information about impending revisions of the “Up or Out” policy, contact your unit’s career planner.

New MOSs open to Marines

Sgt. Sandra Chiaravallotti
Marine Corps Recruit Depot
San Diego, Calif.

Headquarters Marine Corps recently implemented two new Military Occupational Specialties: 0689, Information Assurance Technician and 0681, Information Security Technician.

Marines looking to make a lateral move into the Information Assurance Technician MOS must be from the ranks of sergeant through master gunnery sergeant in MOS’ 4066, Small Computer Systems Specialist or 4067, Programmer.

Duties for Information Assurance Technician include assisting in the development and execution of security policies, plans and procedures, design and implementation of data network security measures and network intrusion detection, among other duties.

The Information Assurance Technician is responsible for all aspects of ensuring

Marine Corps information systems data availability. Marines in this MOS are the sole point of contact for all matters relating to data network security according to Marine Administrative Message 329/01.

Requirements include 36 months of required service left on their current contract as of October 1, 2001, completion of the Advanced Networking Techniques Course or the Network Vulnerability Technicians Course and the ability to obtain a secret security clearance.

Information Security Technicians serve as the primary functional proponent for cryptographic key management infrastructure. They also provide day-to-day operation of the electronic key management system.

Duties include implementation and monitoring of security measures for Marine Corps communication information systems networks. They must also ensure personnel and systems adhere to established security standards and governmental requirements.

To make a lateral move into the Information Security Technician MOS, Marines must be a staff sergeant or above in any MOS, with 36 months of active duty service remaining as of October 1, 2001.

Marines requesting a lateral move into Information Security Technician must possess a general technical score and clerical score of 100. Marines must also be able to achieve a top-secret security clearance.

For more information and requirements on making a lateral move into MOS 0689 or 0681, see MARADMINs 329/01 and 330/01 or contact your career planner.



VMA-311 Named Squadron of the Year

Cpl. Kurt Fredrickson
Marine Corps Air Station
Iwakuni, Japan

This year the Marines of Marine Attack Squadron 311 earned the Lawson M. Sanderson Attack Squadron of the Year Award for the first time in 10 years.

The Tomcats, as well as the entire AV-8 Harrier community, has worked very hard to get where they are today. Over the past year, mechanical problems grounded the Harrier, but the Tomcats overcame those challenges and clawed their way back into the air.



An AV-8B Harrier of Marine Attack Squadron-311 (VMA-311) sits on the deck of the USS Tarawa (LHA-1). The Tomcats earned the Lawson M. Sanderson Attack Squadron of the Year for the first time in years.

The Tomcats ability to function as a team was one of the things that allowed them to overcome the challenges of the past year, according to Lt. Col. Stephen Hawkins, VMA-311 commanding officer.

“We’ve worked very hard over the past year to rebuild the airplanes and get the aircrew trained again, so we could be reintroduced into the operational environment,” Hawkins said.

He also said the credit for the award does not stop at the squadron level.

“We feel fortunate because it was a team effort in Marine Aircraft Group 13, Yuma, Ariz., that helped get us to this point as well,” Hawkins said. “In our view we also represent the team effort MAG-13 put into recovering the Harrier community and getting one squadron to this point.”

For those who had a part in the Tomcats’ achievement, the award belongs to no one individual, but rather the group.



The Marines of VMA-311 come together for a group photo.

“It’s the whole squadron working as one, it’s not just any individual shop or any one person,” said Cpl. Jedidiah Vermillion, VMA-311 technical publications librarian. “This whole thing is like a Super Bowl game. We’ve been the best team all year long, and we put in more practices and hard work than anybody else, so here we are at our Super Bowl right now on deployment.”

The Tomcats last won this award in 1991 after Operation Desert Storm. The squadron has also flown more combat missions than any other Marine unit.

“We have a proud tradition and the Marines live up to that every day,” Hawkins said. “We do our job and execute our mission. Everything else takes care of itself.”

The award was not something that

the squadron sought out, Hawkins noted. It was the by-product of the Marines doing their job, and doing it well each day.

“Marine Attack Squadron 311 is a war machine, and when it’s well balanced, 311 can show you how it’s done,” said Cpl. James Baldwin, VMA-311 maintenance administrator. “It just boils down to teamwork, and I think what helped this squadron more than any I’ve seen in past squadrons or schools, is the camaraderie.”

On Sept. 20, a representative from the squadron received the award for the Tomcats during an awards ceremony in San Diego, Calif. Although the award was earned by the hard work of VMA-311 this year, the entire Harrier community is back on their feet ready to compete for next year’s title of Attack Squadron of the Year.



A VMA-311 AV-8B Harrier lands on the flight deck of the USS Tarawa (LHA-1) during the unit’s last deployment with a Marine expeditionary unit.

New Tools Teach Threat Recognition at CAX



Cpl. Mike Vrabel

A convoy of foreign vehicles makes its approach to Camp Wilson. The vehicles, most of them Russian, were acquired from a disbanded Army unit from Fort Erwin, Calif., and are here to help Marines recognize potential enemy mechanized threats.

Cpl. Mike Vrabel
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, N.C.

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – At first glance, some of the machinery that rolled into Camp Wilson recently resembled flattened Amphibious Assault Vehicles, backwards Light Armored Vehicles, and a 1975 Volkswagen Bus.

After a second look, the Marines participating in CAX 9 here discovered the unfamiliar tracked and wheeled contraptions to be foreign troop carriers and scout vehicles.

Eight of the mechanized war units were proudly driven and displayed by the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group (TTECG), or Coyotes, for “foreign vehicle recognition”. Marines in the area got the chance to climb on and in the armored hulks, while voicing their opinions on the enemy wheels.

“I’ve never seen anything like this before,” said Charlotte, N.C. native Lance Cpl. Mark McMurray, from India Company, 3d Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment. “I’d really like to get behind the wheel of one of these.”

This display was a first of it’s kind for a Combined Arms Exercise. Hopefully, these training tools will keep moving for future exercises.

“This is a first for us,” said Capt. David Nettles, intelligence representative for TTECG. “If we can keep these around, it will be great training for these Marines.”

The purpose of displaying these “imports” is to help CAX warriors learn about the enemy’s mechanized capabilities, and to help Marines in the field recognize a threat before it gets too close.

“We’re taking these out to the field and letting units try to track us down,” explained Nettles. “We’re going to try to sneak up on ‘em.”

The TTECG obtained the vehicles from Fort Erwin, Calif., after the Army’s 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion’s Charlie Detachment was dismantled.

“When we found that out, we did everything we could to snatch them up,” Nettles said.

Nettles plans on displaying his acquisitions during future CAXs, and would like to get similar machines and training programs to bases like Camp Pendleton and Camp Lejeune.



Cpl. Mike Vrabel

Captain David Nettles guides a BTR 60 prior to a foreign vehicle recognition static display here. Other foreign vehicles displayed were the BTR 60 P/U, the BMP-2, the MTLB and the UAZ.

Fire in the hole!

Marine Combat Engineer School Trains with New Remote Detonator

Sgt. Arthur Stone
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The blast of an M15 Anti-tank mine lifted the armored personnel vehicle several feet into the air, blowing off the back hatch.

The detonation shook the ground inside a reinforced concrete bunker barely a hundred yards away from where students of the Marine Corps Engineer School at Courthouse Bay waited quietly with their instructors.

After more than a minute of silence to listen for falling debris, Staff Sgt. David W. Dickens, instructor at the Combat Engineer Instructor Course, put away the new MK 152 Remote Demolition Firing Device he used to detonate the C-4 high explosive charge attached to the mine. He then sounded the ‘all clear’ for his students to exit the bunker.

The MK 152 used by Dickens is a new device. It detonates a high explosive charge within 3 to 11 seconds of the device being keyed, depending on the distance of the charge from the MK 152. Shaped much like a hand-held radio, the device eliminates the need to lay yards of wire from the detonator of an explosive charge to the safety of a distant bunker or shelter.

Engineer units started receiving the MK 152 during the first week of June. It is currently in the fielding stage in the fleet. Marines from the East Coast have already received training, but West Coast and overseas Marines are getting their training now.

According to Dickens, the MK 152 has a range of 1 to 12 miles depending on the terrain and whether you are operating in low or high power range using the MK6 Battery Retainer.

Dickens traveled to Okinawa, Japan, and Hawaii to teach Marines of the III Marine Expeditionary Force about the MK 152 system in August and September as it was fielded throughout the Marine Corps.



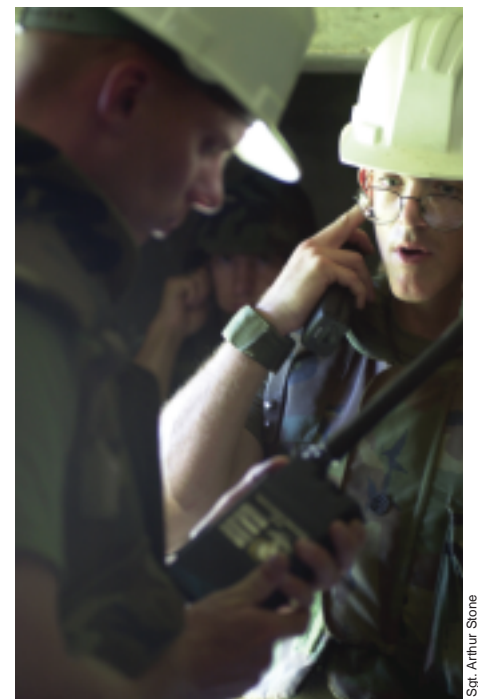
Sgt. Arthur Stone

A combat engineer student at Marine Corps Engineer School at Courthouse Bay on Camp Lejeune, aims a Claymore mine at a hardened target during demolitions training.



Sgt. Arthur Stone

A combat engineer student at Marine Corps Engineer School, Courthouse Bay, Camp Lejeune prepares to insert a fuse and detonator into a Claymore mine during demolitions training recently at the school’s demolition range.



Sgt. Arthur Stone

Students and staff at the Marine Corps Engineer School Demolition Range plug their ears as Staff Sgt. David W. Dickens (left), an instructor with Combat Engineer Instructor Course, uses an MK 152 Remote Demolition Firing Device to detonate a C-4 high explosive charge attached to a mine on a nearby range.

The Marine Corps War Memorial

Fact or Fiction?

Lance Cpl. John R. Lawson
Headquarters Marine Corps
Washington, D.C.

Heroic deeds deserve grand symbols.

However, no matter how great a symbol is, it shouldn't eclipse that which it commemorates.

The United States Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va. is one of the world's greatest symbols, and it commemorates some of history's greatest deeds of heroism.

Thomas Miller makes sure that, as memories of heroic deeds fade, the symbol doesn't take on a life of its own.

As a Marine veteran of Iwo Jima, Miller makes a good unofficial spokesman for the statue commonly referred to as the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Miller knew he had to take action a few years ago when he happened to encounter some misguided tourists at the memorial. They were convinced that the statue of six men raising the flag over Mount Suribachi had 13 hands on the flag pole.

Making matters worse, Miller started noticing inaccurate information about the monument in various books and tour guides.

Miller, a resident of Arlington, published a 16-page booklet, at his own expense, summarizing the facts and debunking myths about the monument and the battle for Iwo Jima. For good measure, Miller frequently speaks to tour groups visiting the memorial.

Miller emphasizes that the monument honors all the Marines who have given their lives for their country since the Corps was founded in 1775.

Insofar as the monument symbolizes what happened on Iwo Jima, Miller says, we should remember the fighting and the purpose of the fighting. In that context, he says, the actual raising of the flag is a relatively minor incident, though a superbly symbolic one.

The famous raising of the flag came on the fifth day of the battle, 2-3 hours after the initial raising of a smaller flag. The battle was nowhere near finished at that point. Indeed, the fighting lasted more than a month, and when it was over, nearly 6,000 Marines were dead, 20,000 were wounded, and 22,000 Japanese troops were dead.

Pointing to the men in the statue, Miller said, "None of them considered themselves heroes. They were doing what they were ordered to do."

Miller considers them heroes, but not because they hoisted a flag. The fame from that is "just the accident of Rosenthal," said Miller, referring to Joe Rosenthal, the Associated Press photographer who won a Pulitzer Prize for the famous photograph.



Sarah Gianadda, Girl Scout Troop 630, Clarence, N.Y. (front), listens intently as Thomas Miller tells the story of Marines landing on the island of Iwo Jima, explaining the events that led to the famous flag raising on Mt. Surubachi.

The six men are heroes because they served on the front lines in the infantry or, in the case of flag-raiser Jack Bradley, as a Navy corpsman.

For his part, Miller spent many harrowing weeks helping direct artillery fire on Iwo Jima. But, he downplays his hardships, noting that he always knew where he would sleep each night.

"What these men went through was 100 times worse than what I went through," Miller said. "Those poor bastards had to dig a new foxhole every time. This is why the infantry should get the credit."

Armed with the map of Iwo Jima that he carried on the island 56 years ago, Miller brings the deeds behind the monument to life when addressing tour groups.

Though he is modest about his service, it nevertheless gives him a special credibility with visitors.

On a Friday morning in June, 32 girl scouts from Clarence, N.Y. got to hear Miller speak. Sherri Mitchell, a chaperone for the group, said Miller's words were invaluable. "It's pushing a message through to the girls that, at age 11 and 12, they wouldn't have otherwise absorbed."

Later that same day, a California 4-H Citizenship group visited the memorial and listened to Miller.

"I found it really impressive to hear about what they went through and how many casualties there were," said Rebecca Richardson, 15, of Los Banos, Calif. "My favorite part was what he remembered about it."

Fellow group member Gino Folchi, 17, felt the same way.

"I think veterans need a little more respect," said Folchi, a resident of Sierra County in California. "If it wasn't for a guy like that I might be in a salt mine. You look at a man's face like that and you realize he's been to hell and back."



A crowd gathers near the base of the Marine Corps War Memorial and listens to Iwo Jima veteran Thomas Miller recount the actions of the battle. The lack of any park service signs in the area make Miller's presentations invaluable to those visiting the famous monument.



Iwo Jima veteran Thomas Miller remembers those who gave their lives during the battle of Iwo Jima by ensuring their story remains accurate and true. The former gunnery sergeant visits the memorial often addressing tourists and separating fact from fiction by dispelling inaccuracies about the monument and battle itself.



Ninety-four-year-old Felix de Weldon stands in front of the statue he spent nine years creating. The 100-ton memorial depicts the five Marines and Navy Corpsman who raised the American Flag atop Mount Surabachi on February 23, 1945. The memorial is dedicated to the more than 40,000 Marines who have given their lives for their country.

Memorial Facts

The United States Marine Corps War Memorial is the world's largest bronze statue.

The figures are 32 feet high, and the flagpole is 60 feet long. The M-1 rifles in the statue are 16 feet long, and the carbines are 12 feet long, according to the National Park Service.

Renowned sculptor Felix de Weldon, an Austrian immigrant who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, spent several years using photographs and live models to craft the statue.

Inscribed on the monument's base are the words that Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz had for the men who fought on Iwo Jima: "Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue."

The statue was officially dedicated on November 10, 1954.

By presidential proclamation, a flag flies atop the monument 24 hours a day.

Toys for Tots Makes Christmas Possible



Courtesy of Toys for Tots Foundation
Quantico, Va.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is directed by the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, with the assistance of his staff, from the Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters in New Orleans, La.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, is a non-profit public charity, independent of the Marine Corps, and is the authorized fund raising and support organization for the Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation provides the funding and support needed for successful annual toy collection and distribution campaigns. The Foundation staff is located aboard Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va.

Local campaigns are conducted in over 350 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The Commander, Marine Forces Reserve has 280 Marine Reserve Units located at 185 Marine Corps Reserve Centers and seven Marine Corps Bases/Air Stations covering 46 states. To assist with coverage in all 50 states, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is authorized to select Marine Corps League detachments and local community organizations to conduct Toys for Tots campaigns as in those communities without a Marine Reserve Center.

A Marine, a member of a Marine Corps League detachment, or a member of a local community organization is designated the Toys for Tots coordinator for that community. The coordinator is responsible for planning, organizing and conducting the campaign.

Toy collection campaigns begin in October and last until December 22. Toy distribution normally takes place on December 23 and 24. Members of the community drop off new, unwrapped toys in collection boxes positioned in local businesses. Coordinators pick up these toys and store them in a central warehouse where the toys are sorted by age and gender.

At Christmas, coordinators, with the assistance of local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local agencies, distribute toys to needy children. Over the years, Marines have discovered that social welfare agencies, churches, and other community agencies are best qualified to identify the needy children in the community and play important roles in the distribution of the toys.

While Toys for Tots coordinators organize, coordinate and manage the campaign, the ultimate success depends on the support of the local community and the generosity of the people who donate toys.

Local business leaders also play key roles. They allow coordinators to locate collection boxes in their stores; provide free warehouse space for storing and sorting toys during October, November and December; provide vehicles to collect toys from collection sites; sponsor toy raising events; and help coordinators arrange media exposure for Toys for Tots.

National corporations support Toys for Tots as well by establishing affiliations with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. These corporations make donations to the Foundation or conduct marketing initiatives from which they share royalties with the Foundation. In almost every instance, the marketing initiatives of these corporations give significant added visibility and name recognition to Toys for Tots. Such visibility enhances the campaign at national and local levels. The funds emanating from these affiliations enable the Foundation to purchase toys to supplement local collections; purchase promotion and support materials; and defray the costs of annual Toys for Tots campaigns.

The National Kickoff Luncheon for this year's campaign is scheduled for November 16, at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in downtown Alexandria, Va. For more information on this year's campaign, call (703) 640-9433.

During the 2000 campaign, Marines and volunteers collected and distributed over 15,800,000 toys to over 6,300,000 needy children throughout all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. 350 Toys for Tots coordinators and thousands of volunteers, supported by millions of caring Americans and hundreds of corporations nationwide, made the 2000 campaign the most successful in the history of the program.



Sir, are Liberty Bounds Really Necessary?



Capt. Joe Cleary
Naval Safety Center

After recruit training, Marine Combat Training and their Military Occupational Specialty School, two Privates First Class finally made it to the fleet. It had been a long haul, and they were eager to start living the life of a “seagoing soldier.”

Little did they know their eagerness soon would get the best of them.

The PFCs had finished the weeklong check-in to their battalion. They had their gear, room and paperwork squared away. More importantly, they finished checking-in just in time for the Independence Day weekend. They were getting a 96-hour liberty pass from the commanding general.

Before sending the Marines off that Friday, the battalion commander and sergeant major gathered the battalion and briefed the do’s and don’ts of liberty. After a company commander dismissed his company, the PFCs asked

if they could travel from Camp Lejeune to Mississippi. They were told no because Mississippi was beyond the 600-mile liberty bounds of a 96.

Later that day, one of the PFCs went into town and bought a car. He returned to the barracks to pick up his friend. Despite what they had been told about the liberty bounds, by 1630, they were headed south to Mississippi.

Eleven hours and 820 miles later (0350), they were in Mississippi. Soon after crossing the border, they turned off the interstate onto a state road; they were almost home.

Several miles later, their long journey took a turn for the worst.

From the evidence, the state police theorized that the driver dozed off, and the car drifted onto a grassy shoulder. The driver sensed the change in road conditions and awoke in time to jerk the steering wheel to the left, but he overcorrected. The car spun out of control and into the path of an oncoming van. The van crashed

(T-boned) into the passenger side doors and ripped through the car to the other side. Both Marines were killed instantly.

To travel 820 miles in 11 hours, the two PFCs would have had to drive at a constant speed of 75 miles per hour, without stopping for gas.

If you’re in charge of Marines, help them plan their trip – specifically where and when they should be driving. If it’s a typical two-day weekend, and your Marine wants to travel out-of-bounds, consider having him take three or four days of leave to make the trip safely.

When your commanding officer, sergeant major, or first sergeant tells you about the liberty bounds for the weekday or weekend, listen to him and abide by his orders. If you don’t, you’ll stand a greater chance of being the next drowsy-driving victim who provides a tragic example of why liberty bounds are necessary.

MCI Brings Education to Marines



Sgt. Katesha Niman

Sgt. Katesha Niman
Headquarters Marine Corps
Washington, D.C.

Marines may envision the Marine Corps Institute as a big, fancy building with little old ladies in oversized green hats sitting around grading courses.

In fact, MCI is on the opposite end of the spectrum.

With only 130 Marines operating the education center for the entire Marine Corps, their workload could be considered one of the toughest in the Marine Corps.

MCI began as a dream in 1912, initially for Sailors, but was turned into more of a relief from boredom due to peacetime, by Major General John A. LeJeune, a hero of World War I.

This tough job of giving Marines an education formally began in 1919 at Quantico, Va., when those who sought to learn skills such as typing, shorthand, or even mechanics were called “sissies” and “schoolboys”.

LeJeune became the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps on June 30, 1920. MCI was moved to Washington, D.C. on Nov. 10 of that same year. The distance learning command has operated from there ever since.

Contrary to popular belief, Marines who work at MCI actually belong to the Marine Barracks, 8th & I, in Washington, D.C. Along with their daily job at MCI Company, the Marines also coordinate and execute the hosting and parade escort plan for the Evening and Sunset Parades. In addition, they provide ceremonial officers and staff noncommissioned officers for the parade staff.

They do all of this and still maintain individual proficiency in their respective military occupational specialty and battle skills training.

“These are some of the hardest working Marines I have ever met. They put in really long hours and they still manage to get their Marine stuff done,” MCI executive director, Terry M. Franus, said of the Marines.

Franus has much reason to praise the Marines of MCI due to the output he sees everyday. MCI receives about 580,000 enrollments a year. In return, MCI grades an average of more than 2,000 exams a day and ships out 30 tons of mail each month.

Lieutenant Col. Glenn Gearhard, deputy director of MCI and commanding officer of the MCI company, is passionate about his hardworking Marines and the mission of MCI.

Corporal Phillip Turner, PME Helpdesk NCOIC, sorts exams through the grading machine, the sole machine that grades all returned MCI course exams.

“The bottom line is ... we have to get books out the door,” Gearhard explained, “It’s because of the hard work of these Marines that makes doing so possible.”

An average of four Marines work in the different sections where getting books out the door is the main function – printing, warehouse, mail room, to name a few. These Marines print over 3,000 exams, about 1,500 diplomas and certificates, and several hundred books for courses; all in a day’s work.

The mailroom is the second largest official mail center in the Marine Corps and ships out 2.2 million pieces of mail a year. The main hub of MCI, however, according to Franus, is Student Services.

“Student Services is the pulse of MCI. These are the Marines you talk to on the phone about your problems with courses and they are



Sgt. Katesha Niman

Lance Cpl. Elias Sepulveda, MCI warehouseman, tosses a complete MCI package in the mail bin. Sepulveda, along with only 129 other Marines, handle about 2,000 MCI courses a day.

the ones who actually receive the numerous tests and grade them,” said Franus about the 20 Marines who operate Student Services.

Although very important, those Marines are just a small piece to putting the puzzle together everyday at MCI.

The process of getting a course in the hands of an individual Marine is tedious, but necessary to ensure Marines are taken care of.

The process starts with a simple visit to the mci.usmc.mil website or a training NCO to enroll in a course. From the time enrollment is received at MCI, the course ordered is “out the door” in 24 to 48 hours.

The main reason MCI is able to ship MCIs out to Marines so quickly is because unlike the other services, all of the sections necessary to provide educational material to Marines are located in the same place.

“We are the only centralized distance learning center in the military,” Mr. Franus said proudly, “it makes a big difference.”

Sgt. M. V. Trindade
Headquarters Marine Corps
Washington, D. C.

The Marine Corps Institute recently presented its student of the year award in a ceremony at Marine Barracks 8th and I, Washington, D. C.

Sergeant Saulo Ugarte, a fire fighter with Aircraft, Rescue and Firefighting, at Marine Corps Air Facility, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, received the MCI honors for his academic efforts during this past year.

“I completed 23 MCIs, eight Federal Emergency Management Agency classes, and several computer classes,” said Ugarte, a Walnut, Calif., native. In accomplishing this feat, Ugarte managed to earn his Associate’s Degree.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Teresa Hoffman, operations chief at MCI, Ugarte’s actual course completion count is closer to 30. That’s when one includes both the sergeants non-resident program and the staff non-commissioned officer distance education program.

“It’s a tremendous honor for him and it’s obviously something that’s very competitive,” said Master Sgt. S. R. Thomas, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Marine Corps Air Facility, MCB Hawaii.

“He’s very professional and gets things done. For the last six months he’s been holding a staff sergeant billet.”

Although Ugarte’s job is demanding, he still creates a balance between his studies and his work.

“We have to have so many people on the field at a time, you know,” explained Ugarte. “Sometimes it was hard (to continue his education) but I always found a way, and my job has been real supportive too, you know.”

Ugarte has been an assistant section leader and has approximately 20 Marines working for him. “Obviously he wouldn’t be in that position very long if he weren’t an effective leader,” Thomas said. “You have to have someone in there that the guys respect and trust otherwise things wouldn’t get done.”

For Ugarte, a native of Nicaragua, completing his education is a very important step of his military career for both personal and professional reasons.

“I’ve always wanted to be an officer,” the 25 year-old Ugarte said. “Sometimes I think, ‘how could I be a leader if I don’t have information to pass down to people’.

Ugarte plans on realizing his professional goals by submitting his package for the Meritorious Commissioning Program. He also says that if he’s not selected for MCP then he’ll

However, there remains several drawbacks to ordering an MCI course, mainly because of human error at the unit administrative level or in the civilian mail sector.

Franus said many Marines don’t receive their MCIs within the 30-day window after it’s shipped because the Marine’s address was either incorrect or was never changed from their previous unit address in the Total Force Administration System (TFAS).

Reservists may also have problems with getting their hands on courses because MCI offers enrollment to reservists only via telephone.

To ensure a smooth delivery of courses, Marines need to make sure their mailing address, unit code and other information is correct when enrolling.

The method of getting an education to Marines may have changed drastically, but the mission of MCI has remained the same - to get books out the door.

Hawaii Marine Receives MCI Honors



Lance Cpl. Leah Cobble

Sergeant Saulo Ugarte, recipient of the MCI Student of the Year award, is congratulated by Col. Richard T. Tryon, commanding officer, Marine Barracks 8th and I, Washington, D. C., after being presented a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal for his academic efforts.

complete his Bachelor’s Degree by next summer and submit for the Enlisted Commissioning Program by next fall.

“It’s always a hard thing to lose someone like him,” said Thomas, about Ugarte’s decision to put in for a commission. “I’d like to see him go as far as he wants to go, but it would be a huge blow to the enlisted ranks.”



Sergeant Kent Sabido, PMO supply chief, measures a roof overhang in preparation for siding. The Shreveport, La., native devoted his Saturday to helping with construction work for Habitat for Humanity in San Diego. Volunteers like Sabido help put roofs over the heads of thousands of low-income families.

Cpl. Kimberly Leone

Marines Get Hands Dirty Building Homes

Cpl. Kimberly Leone
Marine Corps Recruit Depot
San Diego, Calif.

Tears fill her dark brown eyes as Theresa* pulls to the side of the road. Every now and then happiness overwhelms her and she has to pinch herself to make sure she isn't dreaming.

"There are times when I can't believe I will soon own my own home," said the soft-spoken single mother of two. "I can never thank the Habitat (Habitat for Humanity) volunteers enough for everything they have made possible for my children and I."

Helping to make Theresa's new home a reality, the Single Marine Program recently encouraged five Marines from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego to join fellow service members from the USS Coronado and the Navy Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center and other Habitat for Humanity volunteers to add their sweat to the construction process.

"It fills one's heart to see so many people, young and old, willing to give their Saturday to help make this home a reality," Theresa said, wiping sweat from her forehead.

The goal of Habitat for Humanity is to provide low-income families decent homes they can afford to pay for. The homes are purchased on 20-year, no-interest mortgages. The mortgage payments go directly into a fund that Habitat uses to construct more homes.

"I would never have been able to buy a home without the help of Habitat," Theresa said, hard at work on the eaves of her new home. "But this is definitely not a something for nothing program. It is not a handout. I have a mortgage, and I'm here working with the rest of the crew. I had to go through a thorough screening process."

Sharing a two-bedroom apartment with her 75-year-old father and two kids bordering on their teenage years, Theresa easily met the first requirement of showing a need for adequate housing.

The second requirement asks that potential Habitat homeowners have the ability to pay not only their mortgage payments, but also the bills that come with taking care of a home and a family.

Finally, the commitment to "sweat equity" showed Theresa's willingness to partner with Habitat for Humanity to make the dream of homeownership come true. The willingness and ability to devote 250 volunteer work hours to Habitat for every

adult in the family is essential to meeting the third and final requirement of the screening process.

"Not only am I getting a new house," she said. "I'm meeting new people and I'm learning a lot about construction. The Habitat volunteers are great. They are never condescending and are so good to teach everyone who volunteers about the work they will be doing on the house."

Learning a few things about construction added to the personal rewards earned by the Depot Marines who left behind their racks early on a Saturday morning to help out at the Habitat construction site.

"I've never used a power saw before today," said Lance Cpl. Rebecca L. Kindell, videographer, Combat Visual Information Center, MCRD San Diego, as bits of saw dust peppered her black hair. "Now I can say I know how to use a power saw, and I spent my day doing something for somebody besides myself."

Climbing around on the roof of Theresa's new home, Sergeant Kent Sabido said that helping to keep the Single Marine Program alive is one of the things that got him to set his alarm on the weekend.

"If we don't use it, we'll lose it," said the supply clerk from the Depot's Provost Marshal's Office. "SMP is great for the Marines, especially those living in the barracks. These events give me the chance to give something back and have fun while I'm doing it."

* Due to privacy, the last name of this homeowner has been left out.



Lance Cpl. Mauricio Galallego spent his Saturday installing insulation in the Habitat home. Galallego is an SRB clerk at the Recruit Administration Branch, MCRD San Diego.

Putting his field training to work, Sgt. Kent Sabido, PMO supply chief, uses the civilian version of an e-tool as Kimberly Lara looks on.

Cpl. Kimberly Leone

Cpl. Kimberly Leone



Sergeant Major Willie F. Metoyer looks in the mirror reaffirming that he is always ready for duty.

Sgt. Maj. Willie Metoyer Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif.

Marines speak the language of the rifle and bayonet, of muddy boots and long, hot marches. It is never us versus them, only us. That is the secret of the Corps. Some Marines understand this secret more than others when wearing our uniform. Read the following example of duty to your country, our country.

A gunnery sergeant was sitting at his desk just down the hall from the commanding officer's office. As the gunnery sergeant finished his second cup of coffee, the CO stepped into his office.

"Gunny," the Captain said, "I hate to ask you this, but you need to be in a CAX (Combined Armed Exercise) in six days from now, for a six week op(operation). Can you go?"

With no emotion in his voice or without even looking up, the gunny replied, "I put on my uniform this morning, didn't I?"

The CO was a little taken back by the gunnery sergeant's response because he wasn't one to talk in riddles. The CO thought to himself, "Has this veteran of 15 years finally gone off the deep end on me?"

The wise old protector of the enlisted Corps smiled and began to explain. "Sir, I made a promise to myself more than 15 years ago that I would only put this uniform on as long as I'm available and ready to do the duty it requires of me."

"Available for duty really means we are ready to go any place in the world, at any time."

While this story may be obvious to many Marines, it may escape others. Available for duty means more than negotiating premium assignments, scheming to get a hotel suite versus a regular base billeting room, or how much time off you can muster out of those tours.

Available for duty really means we are ready to go any place in the world,

at any time.

Some Marines spend more time and energy getting out of an assignment or duty than it would have taken to accomplish the mission at hand.

Marines who were at Belleau Wood and Iwo Jima weren't worried about assignments, hotel suites, and time off.

In today's world of what can you do for me, it's easy to lose sight of what service before self is all about. Service goes far beyond the individual, it affects

the well being of our nation.

Marines are asked to sacrifice continuously. They serve the nation as volunteers. Each of them must take a good look in the mirror and ask "am I available for duty?"

Everyone must decide for themselves, just as the gunnery sergeant did. He put on his uniform and was available for duty. How about you?

Marines Fly Flag Over Iwo Jima Nightly

Sgt. M. V. Trindade
Headquarters Marine Corps
Washington, D.C.

Nearly every evening, area residents and tourists visiting the Marine Corps War Memorial on Arlington Ridge, Va., witness the American flag that flies high above the monument, being lowered and raised several times as if to re-enact the historic event on Iwo Jima nearly 60 years ago.

Upon walking to the side of the sculpture that faces the Washington, D.C. skyline, a strange sight is revealed as the Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps command duty officer oversees two military policemen raise several U.S. flags to the top of the memorial's flag pole.

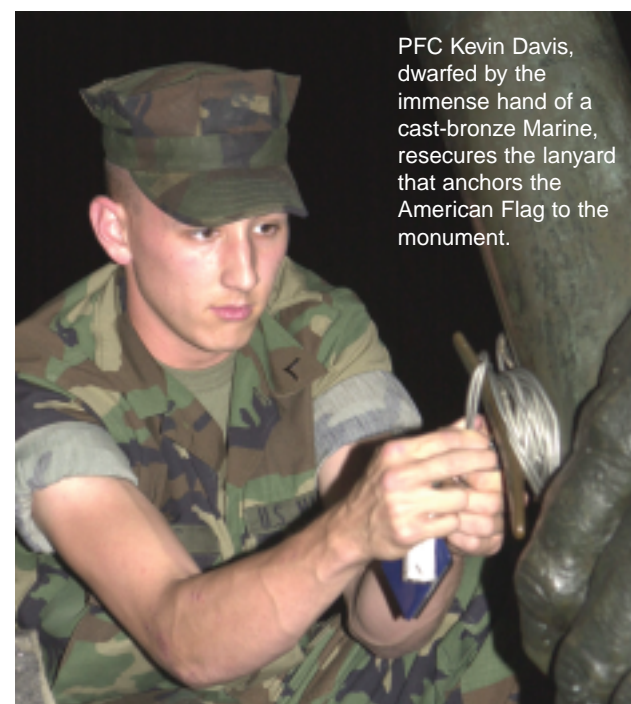
This service is performed as part of the Marine Corps War Memorial Commemorative Flag Raising Program administered by the Headquarters Battalion adjutant's office.

"Almost every night we have flags to raise," said Lance Cpl. Keith Egan, military policeman, Henderson Hall. "We raise them for special occasions like promotions, retirements or for awards."

The program was instituted "to provide a means for individuals to have the U. S. Flag flown over the Marine Corps War Memorial. This is done to honor or recognize special events such as retirement from the Armed Forces or the commissioning or christening of a ship," according to a Commanding Officer's Policy Memorandum.

"I think it's a great program especially because the flag raising on Iwo Jima was one of the most significant events for the Marine Corps," said Capt. Ray Brooks, Headquarters Battalion duty officer supervising the MPs. "I think raising a flag here is a great honor for a Marine."

Once a flag has been raised, the battalion adjutant's office is responsible for certifying the flag as having been flown over the



PFC Kevin Davis, dwarfed by the immense hand of a cast-bronze Marine, resecurcs the lanyard that anchors the American Flag to the monument.



(L-R) PFC Kevin Davis and Lance Cpl. Keith Egan raise the American Flag high into the night sky.

monument for one of two occasions "in honor of" a person or "in recognition" of an achievement.

Special consideration should be taken when requesting a commemorative flag raising, reads the memorandum. This is because "unmonitored or unrestricted use can devalue the entire program or run the risk that it will be used for an occasion not worthy of Marine Corps recognition."

"I get a feeling that from seeing the program from beginning to end that it wouldn't be devalued," said Chief Warrant Officer-2 Sterling Barksdale, HQBN, Henderson Hall battalion adjutant. "I see the program from the request form, to the flag raising, to the delivery (to the person) and it's just unbelievable."

Barksdale recalled a recent retirement ceremony of a Marine who'd served over 20 years and wasn't known for ever getting emotional. On the day that he was presented with the flag flown over the monument he became emotional, "he shed some tears when he received it (the flag)," Barksdale said. "That meant a lot to me, seeing that."

For the military policemen who come to the monument night after night, the detail is more than just part of their job.

"It's an honor to come out here to our monument, to raise the flag for someone who's served 25 years," said PFC Kevin Davis, HQBN, military policeman. "It's an honor for me to be the one Marine to raise a flag for a Marine who left us (passed away)."

"The best thing about this detail is that this is the most unique job in the Marine Corps," added Egan, who's been raising flags over the Memorial for two years. "Out of 170,000-plus Marines, there are only 10 of us that do this."

Wrestling With a Dream of a Lifetime



Sgt. Daryl Sanford
Marines Corps Base
Quantico, Va.

For the majority of his life, Marcel Cooper has been wrestling with a dream. It was a dream that seemed far away until he earned his first national championship title at the Pan American Games last month. This win brings him one step closer to his goal of becoming a world champion.

Cooper's first memory involving wrestling was a competition he was in when he was five years old. Competition at that age is a little different than some of the older kids or adult matches.

His father, Melvin Cooper Sr., and his brother, Melvin Jr., taught him a lot about wrestling. Wrestling his older brother helped Cooper gain an edge on

competitors his own age. Soon, wrestling became something that, according to Cooper, saved him from a life of violence and drugs that he grew up around.

"When I go back home, I still see the same people standing on the same block doing the same thing, going in and out of jail," he said. "If I wasn't wrestling, I would be one of them still out there."

While many of his friends were out hanging around on street corners, Cooper was on the mat, practicing throws or locks with his father as well as his brother who was already well on his way to becoming a national-level wrestler.

When Cooper's big brother joined the Marine Corps, he also earned a spot on the Marine Corps Wrestling Team. Cooper would visit his older brother during the summer breaks in his school

Sergeant Marcel Cooper (right), wrestles Sgt. Brian VanHoven during the All-Marine Wrestling Team trials. Cooper has been around wrestling his entire life. His first memory of wrestling is when he was 5 years old.

years and train with him.

This training helped Cooper with his high school wrestling. He ended his freshman year with a 25-4 record, and although it was respectable, it wasn't enough to go to the state finals. The next year, however, he made it to the state finals.

Cooper eventually won the state finals his senior year, and only lost one match throughout the entire season. After graduating Spring Valley High School, he went to college for a year and wrestled one season.

"I got into some trouble there," he said. "I was hanging with the wrong crowd, and partied too much. I was young, and it didn't work out for me."

His brother, then a Marine recruiter, enlisted Cooper in the Corps in 1992.

After graduating recruit training, Cooper was unable to join the team first year due to a shortage of personnel in his Military Occupational Specialty, the finance field. He tried out the following year, however, and won a spot on the team. In his first year he ended up fourth in the University Nationals. In the following year he placed third, and then placed sixth at Open Nationals.

After a tour on Okinawa in 1995, Cooper returned to Quantico and to the team, making the national finals. Because he made the finals, he was also eligible for the Olympic trials that year, where he finished sixth.

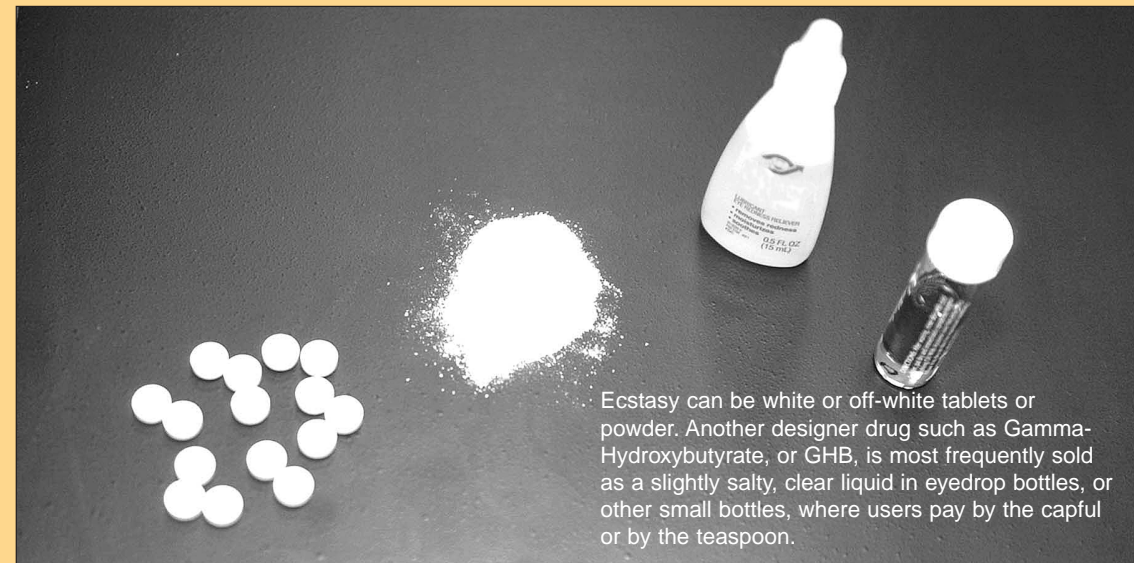
"I don't know how much longer I will be able to do it," he said. "I just have to take it year by year."

His coach, Jay Antonelli, fires Cooper up the most.

"When we are out there and going over our technique, he'll come down on the gym floor and get us all fired up, almost like a drill instructor," he said. "That is good for wrestling."

Sgt. Daryl Sanford

DoD Targets Ecstasy



Ecstasy can be white or off-white tablets or powder. Another designer drug such as Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate, or GHB, is most frequently sold as a slightly salty, clear liquid in eyedrop bottles, or other small bottles, where users pay by the capful or by the teaspoon.

Cpt. Christina Lovett

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

Washington, D.C. – "Ecstasy" is the fastest growing abused drug in the United States, and the military is taking steps to ensure it doesn't endanger service members.

Ecstasy - chemical name 3, 4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine - is also called "X," "XTC," "Clarity," "Essence" "Adam," "Lover's Speed" and "Hug Drug" on the street. A drug with no known medical use, its abuse has exploded among young people, especially those between 18 and 21.

Federal authorities seized 49,000 Ecstasy pills in 1997 – but more than 900,000 just two years later.

Department of Defense officials said 1,070 cases of Ecstasy abuse in fiscal year 2000 accounted for 5.6 percent of all positives in the DoD urinalysis program. This puts Ecstasy behind marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine as the most abused drugs in the military.

"This is a problem in the civilian world," said Deborah Rosenblum, principal director for counternarcotics. "Anything that is as popular, in vogue - where there are misconceptions about it - in the civilian world, we certainly take note of it from a recruiting and readiness perspective."

Abuses in FY 2001 have slowed, officials said. Rosenblum said contributing factors are education efforts by the services and members' growing awareness that the urine test can detect Ecstasy use.

DoD plans to make changes in test protocols – weekend testing, for example. The services will also work together to see what messages resonate with service members and what tactics seem to work, she said.

Ecstasy is dangerous. Findings of a primate study announced at a mid-July research conference in Bethesda, Md., indicated monkeys given the human equivalent of four daily doses of Ecstasy showed brain damage and behavioral changes two weeks and 18 months after the "binge." The effects noted are consistent with those observed in humans – memory loss and acute depression, among others.

Overall, the DoD counterdrug effort has been successful. In 1980, surveys showed 28 percent of service members said they had abused an illegal drug in the last month. The 1998 survey put that number at 2.7 percent. The department currently tests for marijuana, cocaine and amphetamines, which includes Ecstasy.

It also tests for opiates, PCP, barbiturates and LSD. The department will test for other drugs as the need arises, officials said.

Aside from the dangers of designer drugs, being in possession, selling or consuming drugs is not tolerated in the Marine Corps, and chargeable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The penalties that may be imposed upon a Marine for using Ecstasy are no different than those for using cocaine or crack.

Legends Inducted at Sports Hall of Fame



Official USMC Photo

Gene Tunney



Official USMC Photo

Frank Goettge



Official USMC Photo

Ted Williams



Sgt. Jason Blair

Jay Tunney shares a moment with Quantico Marine MGySgt. Cardo Urso after the induction ceremony for the newly-established Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame. Tunney, one of the representatives for the five Marines inducted, accepted the award for his father, Gene Tunney, a former Marine and world champion boxer.

Sgt. Jason Blair
Marine Corps Base
Quantico, Va.

For more than 225 years, Marines have made accomplishing extraordinary athletic feats a standard practice; prevailing in combat because of their physical training, mental agility and moral courage. However, some Marines have become accomplished athletes in the professional sports arena as well. In recognition of some of the Corps' most gifted athletes, five former Marines were selected as the first to be inducted into the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame.

The Sports Hall of Fame was established to highlight the role athleticism plays in the Marine Corps and to emphasize the positive contributions Marine athletes have made to our Corps and country. The induction of these first athletes, held in June at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. was hosted by Lt. Gen. Garry Parks, deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The five individuals honored hail from different walks of life as well as from different times in the Marine Corps' history, and each left an indelible mark on his chosen sport, the Corps and our nation.

Gene Tunney

Gene Tunney served his nation two times, in both world wars. During World War I, he represented the Marines in many well-known boxing contests against Army and Navy opponents. After leaving the Corps in 1919, he became the heavyweight champion of the world, beating Jack Dempsey. He then successfully defended that title, twice. In the 40s, Tunney served as the head of the Navy's physical fitness program, resigning as a captain in 1945. Accepting the award, for Tunney, who is now deceased, was his son Jay Tunney.

"This is the greatest honor he could possibly have," said Tunney, "and by way of extension, mine too."

Frank Goettge

The next Marine inducted was Col. Frank Goettge, celebrated in his heyday as 'the Great Goettge.' In the

enlisted ranks in 1917 and an officer in 1918, he was best known for his exploits as a fullback on the 2d Division, American Expeditionary Forces football team and later on the famed Marine Corps football team in Quantico. Goettge dominated the field during the early 20s and was considered one of the best football players of the day. Sought after by the New York Giants, Goettge remained a Marine officer and was killed during a patrol on Guadalcanal during World War II. His remains were never recovered. Accepting the award in his place was 1st Lt. Susan Stark, Year 2000 Marine Corps Female Athlete of the Year.

Ted Williams

Baseball player Ted Williams was coming off a remarkable season with the Boston Red Sox when he received his draft notice in 1941. He was called to Naval aviation duty in November 1942. Commissioned a second lieutenant in May 1944, he served until December 1945. After his discharge, he went back to the Red Sox, until he was recalled in 1952. He flew 49 combat missions during the Korean War with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Discharged again in 1953, Williams returned to the Red Sox. Despite missing nearly five full seasons while serving his country, Williams earned two triple crowns, two MVP awards, six American League batting championships, 521 home runs, a lifetime average of .344 and 18 All-Star appearances. He is the last player to bat .400 over a full season. Accepting the award in his place was Maj. Gen. Larry Taylor, USMC (Ret).

Lee Trevino

Enlisting in the Marines on his 17th birthday, golf legend Lee Trevino served from 1956 until 1960. Wasting little time after his discharge, Trevino became a professional golfer in 1960 and joined the PGA tour in 1967. The following year, he won the U.S. Open and, over the next six years, became one of golf's biggest stars. Still competing today, his record includes two PGA titles, 27 PGA tour victories and 29 senior tour victories. He has won the Vardon Trophy for the lowest stroke average on the U.S. tour five

times. Accepting the award on his behalf was Staff Sgt. Larry Butts, Year 2000 Marine Corps Male Athlete of the Year.

Billy Mills

Only one American has won the 10,000-meter run in the Olympic games. Billy Mills was a distance runner at the University of Kansas and continued to develop his running skills while serving as a Marine officer from 1962 until 1965. While on active duty, Mills placed 14th in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics but is best known for his gold-medal performance in the 10,000-meter run. He then set a six-mile world record at the Amateur Athletic Union Championships the following year. Mills became active in Native-American affairs after leaving the Corps and was named one of America's Outstanding Young Men in 1972. Today, Mills is a successful businessman, author and speaker.

Accepting his award was Capt. David McCombs, member, All-Marine Cross Country and Marathon teams.

According to Jay Tunney, the induction was just the beginning and he hoped that Marines understood that history was being made.

"These men are not only champions," said Tunney. "Each and every one of them said the same thing: they learned the traits of character they needed to become champions in the Marine Corps - courage, self-discipline, individuality, will-power and determination. That's what the young Marines ought to see when they watch these champions getting inducted tonight. The symbolism is truly marvelous."

According to Parks, that symbolism resides in the hands of not only the past and the present of the Marine Corps, but in the future as well.

"These representatives before you take us from intramural sports to Olympic competition," said Parks. "Being an athlete is tough and the Corps is no exception. These are true athletes, but first and foremost, whether officer or enlisted, male or female, regular or reserve, what we recognize tonight is that they're United States Marines, and we're very proud of that."

Marines Tear Into The X Games



Staff Sgt. Christian Flores, the Musical Technical Assistant for the 1st Marine Corps District speaks with the crowd at the 2001 Summer X Games. The X Games took place August 17-22 in Philadelphia. The United States Marine Corps has been an associate sponsor of the X Games for six years.

Sgt. James Covington



Sam Corcelli, 14, an eighth grader at Strathaven Middle School, shows off the Marine Corps skateboard he won by participating in the Marine Corps' Chin-Up Challenge at the 2001 Summer X Games in Philadelphia.

Sgt. James Covington



Staff Sgt. Christian Flores, the Musical Technical Assistant for the 1st Marine Corps District entices a young man to participate in the Chin-Up Challenge during the Summer X Games in Philadelphia.

Sgt. James Covington

them in their recruiting efforts in their local communities.

Several Philadelphia area recruiters took advantage of this unique opportunity to reach their target audience.

"I came out here to scout out available prospects to join our ranks," said Sgt. Brian Romans, a recruiter from Recruiting Station New Jersey. "This event is full of possible applicants, and I really don't have to work hard to gain their attention. They're coming up to us and telling us they're qualified without even realizing it."

"My participation here has been very productive," he said. "I believe my efforts here have earned me one contract and four or five strong leads."

Romans felt the Marine Corps participation in the X Games is a very valuable tool in assisting him to accomplish his mission. He is very motivated toward being a part of the games and toward being a recruiter.

"Being a recruiter gives me the unique opportunity to have a positive influence on young people's lives, and encourage a change for the better," said Romans. "Some people try hard to keep from being recruiters. I think they're out of their minds. This is one of the best duties a Marine can have. It is challenging, and that's why people are afraid of it, but we were also afraid when we raised our hands to volunteer to become Marines."



Mariel Osner, 19, a motorcycle sales representative for Power Sports store in Broomall, Penn., shows off the Marine Corps skateboard she won by participating in the Marine Corps 'Chin-Up Challenge' at the 2001 Summer X Games in Philadelphia.

Sgt. James Covington

Sgt. James Covington
Marine Corps Recruiting Command
Quantico, Va.

Marines from the Marine Corps Recruiting Command fixed their sights on America's youth at the 2001 Summer X Games in Philadelphia, Pa.

The Marine Corps has been an associate sponsor of the X Games for six years.

"We are not here to recruit the athletes," said Maj. Andrew Fortunato, the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff of Advertising for MCRC. "We are here to expose the spectators to the Marine Corps". Those spectators are here in Philadelphia and across the nation, sitting in living rooms tuned into the action.

"Those spectators are usually goal-oriented athletes in good physical condition and prime prospects for the Marine Corps," he said. "Our mission is to reach them and expose them to Marine Corps opportunities they might not know exist."

The Marines' primary focus at the event is on interacting with the audience while generating an awareness and understanding of the Marine Corps.

Previous Marine Corps involvement with the X Games has proved fruitful. At the Winter X Games earlier this year, more than 2,000 spectators indicated an interest in joining the Marine Corps.

ESPN, ESPN2 and ABC broadcast the Summer X Games on television nationwide giving the Corps a vehicle to connect to its audience across the country.

"ESPN's Summer X Games is a unique media sponsorship vehicle that allows the Marine Corps access to young men and women who enjoy physical challenges and pushing themselves to their mental and physical limits," said Gary Sayers a Marine Corps account representative with J. Walter Thompson Advertising Company. "ESPN [and ABC's] commitment to the

program affords excellent television coverage in reaching these young people."

Associate sponsorship with the X Games provides the Marine Corps with several unique advertising opportunities to reach both the spectators in the audience and the viewers at home.

"Aside from the association with one of America's fastest growing sports properties, the specifics of the sponsorship include several unique advertising opportunities," said Fortunato. "Our latest commercial, 'Rite of Passage,' will be aired at various times on ABC, ESPN and ESPN2, and our billboards, placed at the different events, will be in plain view of the spectators both here and watching the games on television."

MCRC's print advertising includes ads in the Summer X Games insert of ESPN the Magazine, ESPN event programs, and Internet banners on ESPN's Sportzone X Games website with links to www.marines.com. Their sponsorship also includes an on-site booth, banner presence, and announcements during the event.

The X Games is just one of the national events the Marine Corps sponsors. Other events include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) National Convention, the National Council of La Raza National Conference and the national Future Farmers of America national convention. Regional Marine recruiting stations sponsor many other local oriented events and festivals to assist

Rehearsal? No, Thank You!



Cpt. Mike Vrabel

Kilo Company sets up a base of fire, allowing 1st Platoon to take the objective.

Capt. Joe Cleary Naval Safety Center

A hail of gunfire erupted, and the tracers ripped through the darkness as the machine-gun section fired on a hill. First platoon launched their attack on objective-alpha, a nearby clearing. A few minutes later, they signaled they had seized their objective.

Meanwhile, several hundred meters away, second platoon maneuvered swiftly through the hilly terrain to close in on their objective, which was the same hill the machine guns were firing on. They had arrived at their last concealed position and were waiting for the gunfire to stop before rushing into the attack when someone yelled cease-fire over the radio.

Startled by the unexpected call, the company commander, who was a major, radioed back, “Who called it and why?”

No one answered, so the major ordered the attack to resume. Immediately after the machine-gun fire resumed, someone again shouted cease-fire over the radio.

The call came from second platoon reporting that a Marine was hurt.

The company commander and corpsman ran from the machine gun position to the scene to discover that a 7.62 mm round from one of the machine guns had hit a lance corporal. The round had torn through one of his buttocks and hip. The platoon commander, who was a captain, also was injured; a round had hit his flak jacket, leaving a large bruise on his side.

After reviewing this incident, investigators found that the captain of the second platoon had walked his Marines into the impact area when he got lost trying to find the platoon’s designated covered position. Before the attack and sunset, the company commander and first

platoon commander had walked the terrain.

However, the second-platoon commander decided not to accompany them because he felt confident about where he was going. He explained that he already had maneuvered over the terrain earlier that day during platoon attacks. Furthermore, the captain didn’t bother using a guide, pace-count or compass to help navigate.

The reserve rifle company didn’t rehearse the night-live-fire-attack. As a result, their coordination failed when they needed it most. Because of the darkness, the company commander and machine-gun section couldn’t see that second platoon had wandered into the cone of fire. To make matters worse, the section didn’t have clear fields of fire. Numerous trees and brush obstructed their view and rounds, making ricochets more likely.

After talking with the Marines in second platoon, investigators concluded that most of them didn’t know the route, their designated last-covered or concealed position, or the signal plan. It wasn’t surprising to discover these facts, considering the captain never briefed them before the attack.

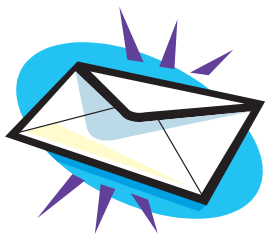
A live-fire exercise at night is a risky operation. By skipping rehearsals and briefs, a unit increases the likelihood of a grave mistake. In training, it’s a risk not worth taking.

There are many lessons to be learned from this story. Perhaps the greatest lesson is to have positive communication.

“Because of the darkness, the company commander and machine-gun section couldn’t see that second platoon had wandered into their cone of fire.”

When someone calls cease-fire, don’t assume anything. Find out who and why they called it, even if you have to hike to the front lines and get face-to-face to make an informed decision. There is no substitute for positive communication.

Marine Mail



This quarter’s Question to the Corps:

“How can we further reduce time in training, time awaiting training and/or time in transit without diminishing the quality of required MOS training?”

Submitted by Capt. Kirkland P. Martin, Jr., USMC

I am the Training Officer (Limited Duty Officer) at Electronics Fundamentals Training Section, Marine Corps Communication Electronics Schools. I receive most of my students directly from Marine Combat Training and, as such, they are primarily privates and privates first class. When they first arrive, they are assembled into our Marines Awaiting Training (MAT) Platoon. We place them into classes for the Basic Electronics Course as soon as possible.

While in MAT status, they receive lessons in core values and a variety of other subjects. From TECOM’s web page, “The MAT Program was designed to provide prioritized, quality training focused on the three R’s: retain the spirit, reinforce core values, and realize benefits during awaiting training time.”

Here at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Command, 29 Palms, there is a new Training Command Learning Center where Marines can use computers for both CD-based and on-line MCI courses. I’ve sent a few of my hard chargers over there and had them go through one or two of the new Distance Learning MCI courses to assist in “working out the bugs” in the new courseware. The Marines were excited about the courses. They enjoyed the audio and video enhancements, and they called the learning “fun.”

MCI has designed a user-friendly platform that both entertains and educates Marines. While I think it’s fantastic that distance Learning (DL) MCI’s are available, the issue I have trouble with is the Marine Corps Promotions Manual MCO P1400.32B, specifically paragraph 2303 which describes composite score computations. On line 11, a Marine who took exceptional initiative as a PFC and completed an MCI course does not receive credit in computing his composite score for Corporal. Only those courses taken as a lance corporal count. It states, “Only bonus points completed since promotion, reduction, or reappointment upon reenlistment to the current grade will be utilized.”

These hard chargers in MAT status are eager and looking for any opportunity to train. I’m not only referring to my students, but all MAT programs throughout the Marine Corps can benefit by taking DL MCI courses. They are quick, accessible, and fun, and these Marines can get a jump on showing initiative. What difference does it make if a Marine completes an MCI course as a PFC or as a LCpl? They are still making the effort to better themselves, and in my opinion, should be awarded points towards their future promotion based on self-education initiatives. Isn’t that what the bonus points are for in the first place?

In reference to the third “R” mentioned above, I would like to capitalize on realizing benefits during awaiting training time. I would like to be able to tell that hard-chargers Marine there are benefits to taking an MCI course in the new and improved electronic format, and that they will be rewarded by doing so. As it currently stands, I can tell that Marine “Good job, here’s your certificate,” and nothing more. The current order doesn’t give the Marines any motivation to take an MCI course until the rank of LCpl, nor does it give me any reason to offer the courses to my hard-chargers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kirkland P. Martin, Jr.
Capt., USMC

Response to Capt. Martin’s letter:

Dear Captain Martin,

I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Commandant of the Marine Corps to your Marine Mail regarding MCI credit for privates and PFC’s toward corporal composite scores.

The promotion of enlisted Marines must positively contribute to the high standards of leadership and proficiency required for continued combat readiness. Furthermore, as a Marine Corps, we must continually evaluate how we are doing and look to make changes to improve our warfighting capability. The promotion system is not exempted from evaluation.

Consequently, we believe that your suggestion has tremendous validity and should be implemented. Manpower Plans and Policy is recommending a change to MCO P1430.32C based on your Marine Mail. Your recommendation has been forwarded to MMPPR for action. I cannot guarantee that your suggestion will be implemented. The process will take approximately 12 to 18 months.

Keep the good ideas coming, and thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns to our attention.

Semper Fidelis,

M. F. Applegate
Colonel, USMC
Head, Manpower Plans, Programs, and Budget Branch
Manpower Plans and Policy division
Manpower and Reserve Affairs

Welcome to the Second Installment of Corps Shots

Corps Shots is dedicated to acknowledging the support that family and friends provide for those who wear the uniform of a United States Marine.

Gunnery Sgt. Stephanie K. Murphy, staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge of traffic management here, paints the face of Natasha E. Cladewell, who participated in the activities at the Arts in the Park Festival Monday at Tift Park in Albany, Ga.



Lance Cpl. Nicholas Tremblay



Cpl. Matthew Walsh

Gunnery Sgt. Annette Taylor shows a side of herself to young autograph seekers that wasn't evident on the reality show "Boot Camp".

If you would like to recognize someone who supports the Corps, please send a photo with a brief description of the action or accomplishment to:

Commandant of the Marine Corps
Attn: MC News, Family and Friends
2 Navy Annex, Rm 3134
Washington, D.C. 20380-1775

An electronic photo can also be emailed to: MCNEWS@HQMC.USMC.MIL

(Minimum requirements for electronic photos are 3X5 inches at 300 dpi.)



Staff Sgt. Rosalinda Rodriquez, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Phase Maintenance Division, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (reinforced), 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) makes a cursory glance at the flight controls along the rotor of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter.

Staff Sgt. Stephen Gude

Sgt. Eric McIlroy

ABOVE: Dena Willis, of Redondo Beach, CA., listens as Lance Cpl. Leandro Baptista explains the targeting and guidance system of the TOW missile, Aug. 10. Baptista was participating in a static display of weapons from Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, for the Family Day aboard USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6).



LEFT: Lance Cpl. John Reynolds, warehouse NCO, 9th ESB, fights and struggles to get his opponent to loose his balance and fall over onto his back. Reynolds put up a good fight drawing cheers from the crowd, but was won over in the end.



Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Decker



Lance Cpl. Jeff Sisto

FRANCE: Sergeant Justin Mercer, Echo 2/10, section chief, and Lance Cpl. Kenneth Castille, Echo 2/10, artillery, fold the National Ensign. The ceremony was held in remembrance of the fallen Marines in the Battle of Belleau Wood.

ABOARD USS DUBUQUE – Sergeant Cordney C. Gordon (left), 24, of Chicago, and Cpl. Quintin C. Irving, 23, of New York, track an 'aircraft' with an infrared-enabled Stinger Launch Simulant (STLS). Both Marines are Stinger gunners assigned to 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion. The 3rd LAAD detachment is part of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163 (Rein), which is the aviation combat element for the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). The Stinger is a man-portable, shoulder-fired guided missile system that enables its operator to effectively engage low-altitude jet, propeller-driven aircraft or helicopters.

Corps Shots Photo Album



Sgt. Joseph R. Orenally

ABOARD USS PELELIU – Lance Cpl. Armando Vilano, 19, an infantryman from Brownsville, Texas, break-dances on a makeshift cardboard dance floor Marines and Sailors constructed during a Steel Beach Party on the ship's flight deck. Vilano is part of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's (Special Operations Capable) Ground Sensor Platoon.



Lance Cpl. Jeff Sato

A Marine from the 24th MEU (SOC) hands out Marine Corps stickers to Kosovar children August 28 as part of community relations activities during Operation Rapid Cheetah in Pristina, Kosovo.

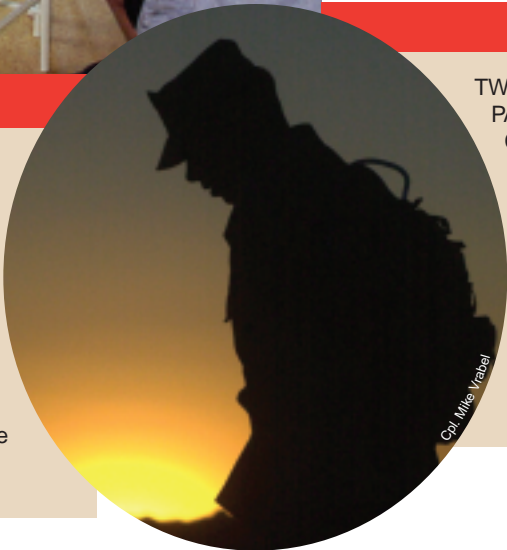


Cpl. Mike Vrabel



Sgt. Michael Niman

Staff Sgt. Raymond Secoy, North West Washington, D.C. Marine recruiter, thoroughly briefs 17-year-old Francisco Gonzalez on the processes and procedures he will go through at Military Entrance Processing Station Baltimore, Md. Gonzalez was accepted into the Marine Corps' delayed entry program August 15.



Cpl. Mike Vrabel

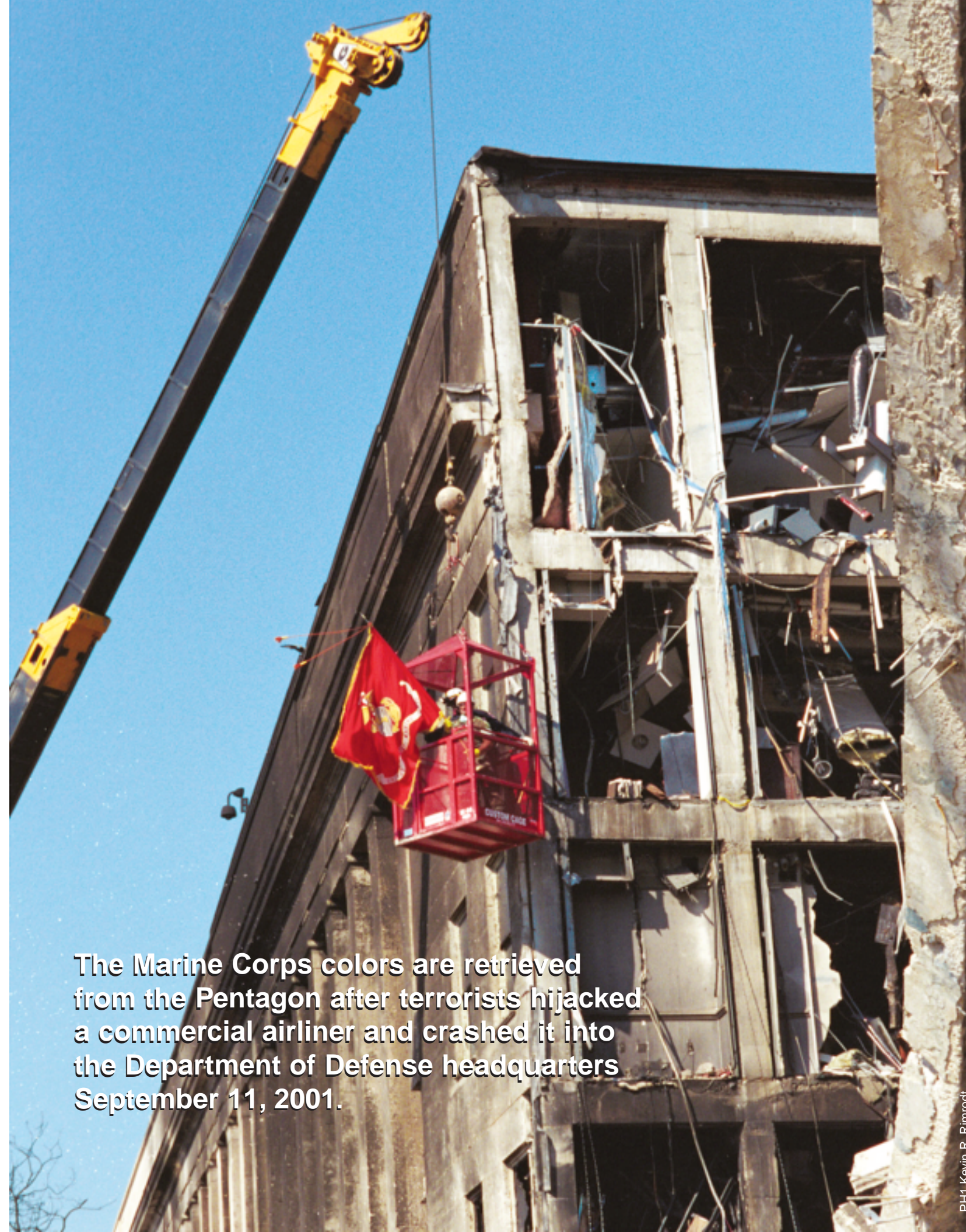
TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Marines and Sailors from Combat Service Support Detachment-24 battled for supremacy on the volleyball court during Combined Arms Exercise 10 here. The September 2 championship game saw S-3/S-4's Working Party beat the supply section's Back Order team in a best-of-five grudge match.

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Corporal Anthony Obrero prepared himself for a recent Helicopterborne Assault Course under a colorful Mojave sunset here August 3.



Major Bill Maxwell, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 pilot, embraces his eight-year-old daughter, Jacqueline, and six-year-old son, William Jr., after returning to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S. C., following a six-month deployment aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75).

Cpl. S. K. D'Alessio



The Marine Corps colors are retrieved from the Pentagon after terrorists hijacked a commercial airliner and crashed it into the Department of Defense headquarters September 11, 2001.